

REMARKS

Remaining Claims

Through this Amendment, claims 8 and 28 have been canceled; 1, 3, 9-10, 12, 17, 19, 21, 27, 29, 31, 37-38, 40, 46, 47, and 50 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Supports for the amendment of claims can be found in originally filed drawings, the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9, and the first and second full paragraphs on page 9. After these amendments are entered, forty eight (48) claims (Claims 1-7, 9-27, and 29-50) remain pending in this application through this Amendment.

Specification Objections

The objection of the specification has been overcome with the amendments of the first full paragraph on page 9, the first paragraph on page 10 and the Abstract. Applicants respectfully request withdraw of the specification objection.

Claim Objections

The objection of claims 1, 10, 12, 19, 21, 29, 31, 38, 40, 46, and 47 has been overcome with the amendments of these claims. Applicants respectfully request withdraw of the specification objection.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 15-18, 24, 35-37, and 43 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,773,107. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request withdraw of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-3, 6-7, 15-18, 24, 35-37, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ye et al (US 6,773,107). Applicants submit that the cited reference does not disclose nor suggest anything about a ramp that ensures a continuous transition from the lenticular zone to the latitudinal ridge and has a radius of curvature of between 0.1 to 1.0 mm. As such, the cited reference does not meet all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. Applicants respectfully request withdraw of this rejection.

Claims 1-2, 10-15, 35-36, and 46-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Jacobstein et al. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is

respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that the cited reference meet all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. First, the cited reference does not disclose nor suggest anything about a ramped ridge zone having a latitudinal ridge that extends outwardly from the anterior surface. What the cited reference discloses or teaches is a prism ballasted peripheral edge portion which incorporates a structural vent (col. 3, lines 13-15). The characteristics of the vent is well described by Jacobstein et al. on col. 5, lines 28-40:

FIG. 6 is a front view of a completely finished lens 10, in its final configuration. As the rotating disc 58 is flat, and the lens 10 is substantially spherical, the vent 56 will have a wedge surface 60 which will taper (a) outwardly from the vertical centerline 57 (as seen in FIG. 6) toward the edge 20 and (b) from the anterior surface 40 toward the posterior surface 14 (as seen in FIG. 5). The shape of the resulting vent 56 resembles a flattened crescent with reversed and peaked ends 56a and 56b, or, in other words, an isosceles triangle which is rounded between the short equal legs 56c and 56d, has an inward curvature along its longest leg 56e and fluted junctures 56a and 56b between the long and short legs. [Emphasis added]

According to the teachings of Jacobstein et al., a structural vent is formed by grounding with a rotating abrasive disc 58) after forming a lens with a prism ballast (the paragraph bridging col. 4 and col. 5). Jacobstein et al. teaches that “[i]t will be appreciated, that the size and shape of the lens vent is dependent upon how much lens material is removed by disc 58 during the grinding process.” (col. 6, lines 43-46). Jacobstein et al. further teaches that the structural vent is grounded directly into the lens which thereby provides a form of **truncation** (col. 7, lines 5-7). Clearly, Jacobstein et al. does not disclose nor suggest anything about a latitudinal ridge that extends outwardly from the anterior surface. The stabilizing zones 62 is **not** a latitudinal ridge that extends outwardly from the anterior surface, as suggested by the Examiner. They (“62”) are formed on the lens adjacent each side of the vent 56 as result of grinding vent 56 (col.5, lines 66-68).

Second, Jacobstein et al. does not disclose nor suggest anything about a ramp that ensures a continuous transition from the lenticular zone to the latitudinal ridge and has a radius of curvature of between 0.1 to 1.0 mm.

Third, Jacobstein et al. does not disclose nor suggest anything about a lenticular zone which extends radially outward from the non-optical zone and tapers to a narrow end where the posterior and anterior surfaces meet each other.

In sum, the cited reference does not meet all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. Applicants respectfully request withdraw of this rejection.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 16, 19-26, and 44-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Jacobstein et al. As discussed above, the cited reference does not meet all the limitations of the inventions as currently claimed. As stated in the MPEP at 706.02(j), to establish a prima facie case of obviousness the “prior art reference (or references combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.” Applicants respectfully submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established and request withdraw of this rejection.

Claims 3-9, 17-18, 27-34, and 37-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobstein et al. in view of Rothe et al. The rejection over claims 8 and 28 is moot in view of their cancellation. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 3-7, 9, 17-18, 27, 29-34, and 37-43 is respectfully traversed.

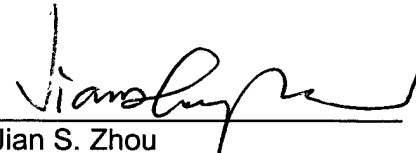
As discussed above, As discussed above, the cited reference does not meet all the limitations of the inventions as currently claimed. The secondary reference (Rothe et al.) can not fill the gap left by the primary reference. Applicants respectfully submit that, since the primary and secondary references, alone or in combination, does not meet all the limitations of the invention as currently amended and since they do not teach nor provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention as currently claimed, the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over the cited references and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,


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